

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A device for admitting a backwash fluid to filter medium of a filter bed, comprising:

- (i) a tubular member;
- (ii) a plurality of slots through said tubular member, whereby to allow passage therethrough of said fluid but not the media; and
- (iii) means for connecting the tubular member to a fluid supply means;

each slot being directed longitudinally along said tubular member, and having a length not greater than the pitch between adjacent slots and a width of less than 0.5mm.

Claims 2-3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A device as defined in claim 3 1, wherein the slots each have a width between 0.10-0.3mm.

5. (currently amended) A device as defined in claim 3 1, wherein each slot has a width of 0.25mm.

Claims 6-9 (canceled).

10. (previously presented) A device as defined in claim 1, wherein the slots are arranged in more than one row.

11. (previously presented) A device as defined in claim 10, wherein the slots are arranged in rows whereby to provide slots both close to the bottom and to the top of the tubular member in any orientation of the tube.

Claims 12-13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented) A device as defined in claim 1, wherein the slots are staggered along the length of the tubular member.

15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented) A device as defined in claim 1, wherein the slots are formed by a laser cutting device.

17. (previously presented) A device as defined in claim 16, wherein the tubular member is made from a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, brass, aluminum and plastic.

Claims 18-23 (canceled).